Trick or Tradition

The Curtis family continues 35-years of Halloween

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The Supreme Court didn't act alone when it overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Well-funded anti-abortion rights politicians made it their mission to take away our rights.

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When we all show up, we can take back power to control our bodies, our lives, and our futures.

PLAN MY BALLOT

TAKE CONTROL

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PHOTO HIGHLIGHT

Marie Underwood | Staff Photographer

The Office of Student Activities and Involvement hosts a pumpkin carving painting contest Monday, Oct. 24 in Wightman 200. All pumpkin entries are being voted on SAI's Instagram (@cmuactivities).

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FOLLOW US ONLINE

Make sure to read all of our coverage on our website, cm-life.com.

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‘It’s a family affair’

Ella Miller | Staff Photographer

Halloween decorations sit in the yard outside the Curtis family house Monday, Oct. 24.

By Aurora Rae
Editor-in-Chief

Robin and Larry Curtis have covered the yard of their 502 S. Arnold Ave home in Halloween decorations for over 30 years. Inflatable zombies, skeleton fish, pumpkin patches and more in the front, on the side of the house and all throughout the backyard have become a staple in the community.

“Everybody does Christmas. A lot of people do Easter,” Robin said. “Nobody was doing Halloween.”

It all started in the late 1980s when Robin, Larry and their daughter, Sarah, moved to their current Mount Pleasant home. A few years after, they started decorating for Halloween. Now, Sarah’s son, Curtis Droster, 8, helps her, his grandparents and great-grandmother, Frances Wright, 97, put the decorations up annually.

Robin’s oldest grandson, Donovan Curtis and her sister, Carol Wright, help with the set up, too.

Building the collection

Each year, Robin and Larry purchased items in their collection from garage sales and post-Halloween sales.

“It just grew from there,” Robin said.

The collection is always evolving, she said. They recycle personal items like Frances’ light post, Curtis’ boat-shaped sandbox and even Robin’s very own wedding dress.

“Most of the stuff we get, we buy at garage sales, or the clothes were ours,” she said. “We did country line dancing, and we don’t do it anymore, so our clothes made the yard.”

Robin said it took their family two days to set up a “good start.” From there, they “tweak it every day.”

Planning starts in the summer, according to Frances, who has been by her daughter’s side to assist since the start. Finally, weeks before Halloween, Robin said their elaborate décor is ready.

“About two weeks before Halloween, we usually have it the way we want it,” she said.

Various “scenes,” as Robin calls them, throughout the yard illustrate a wedding with a minister and cake hand-built from wood; medical doctors with scrubs and masks; and an ocean-themed section with fish skeletons and an inflatable fisherman.

The work does not stop there. Every night, the family removes all the unattached face masks and Halloween masks because they have been stolen in the past.

Robin said only about half of their decorations are currently out. They have much more, including a clown scene, Jon’s drive-in – inspired by the Mount Pleasant burger joint – and a “Wizard of Oz” scene with a yellow brick road and wicked witch.

“You see something at (a) garage sale and go ‘Well there’s the start of a scene,’” Robin said.

A special guest is making an appearance this year: Waldo, from the children’s book “Where’s Waldo” is in the yard.

“Waldo moves every other day,” Robin said. “He will be behind something; he won’t be just sticking out.”

Each year for Halloween, most of the family dresses up as decorations in the yard to scare people.

"If it's a small child, I will do some kind of signal," Robin said.

"So that we won't scare them," Larry said. "We like scaring people; we don't want to horrify them."

Where does it all go?

During the off-season, the Curtis' store their decorations in two outdoor sheds and their basement. Robin said she's learned of ways to consolidate them into smaller spaces.

"I can get probably 12 to 15 – depending on the size – inflatables in one crate," she said. "Instead of 15 boxes."

Larry said one of the troubles with having so many decorations is keeping track of it all.

"Sometimes we can't find where we (put) stuff," he said. "There's a big, tall inflatable dragon that we have, I don't know where it is."

"You'd think after 30-some odd years we'd be organized but we're not," Robin said.

"We keep buying," Larry said.

Adjusting to new needs

This year, Robin was not able to participate as much as she has in past years. She is living with and caring for her mom, who is developing dementia, and her sister, who is losing her vision, in Canadian Lakes.

Living 30 minutes away, she is not able to stay at home with her husband or set out the decorations.

Instead, Larry did most of the work this year.

"She loves Halloween. I love her. So that's why I do it," he said. "She's my motivation."

A community staple

Robin said they considered retiring the decorations this year until neighbors asked, in passing, when they could expect to see the show.

"We just didn't think anybody really cared," Robin said. "But I guess people, they really look forward to it every year."

"A guy came by with his kids," Larry said. "He came up and talked to me and says, 'I told my kids "When I was your age (was) the first time I saw (the Curtis') yard"', so he brought his kids back to see."

"That's how long we've been doing it, generations," Robin said.

Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor

Halloween decorations sit in the yard Monday, Oct. 24 outside the Curtis family house.

Illustration created by Akhila Sannidhi

Ella Miller | Staff Photographer

Halloween decorations fill the yard outside the Curtis family house Monday, Oct. 24.

For more information on this story, visit WWW.CM-LIFE.COM

Ballot 101: Your guide to the 2022 election

By Elijah Fosmore
Staff Reporter

The Michigan midterm elections will take place Nov. 8. Here's how to vote if you're not sure what to do, according to the Michigan Department of State.

Polling locations depend on voter addresses and can be found online, including through the state department website. If you have not registered yet, you can go to your county clerk's office within two weeks of election day, including on election day.

If voters have already registered but cannot — or do not want to — vote in person on election day, they can register for an absentee ballot until Nov. 4.

For more information on voter registration and absentee ballots, visit the online Michigan Secretary of State Voter Information Center.

You do not have to pay to vote. You also do not have to tell anyone who or what you vote for, but you can if you want.

Voters will be asked to present a photo ID when they go to vote. Acceptable forms include:

- Michigan driver's license or state ID card.
- Current (non-expired) driver's license or personal ID card issued by another state federal or state government-issued photo ID.
- U.S. passport
- Military ID card with a photo.
- Student ID with a photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education.
- Tribal ID card with a photo.

If you do not have a photo ID available when you go to vote, you can request an affidavit ballot. This will allow your vote to be cast provisionally, but you must provide proof of residency and identification to your local clerk no more than the sixth calendar day after the election to verify your vote.

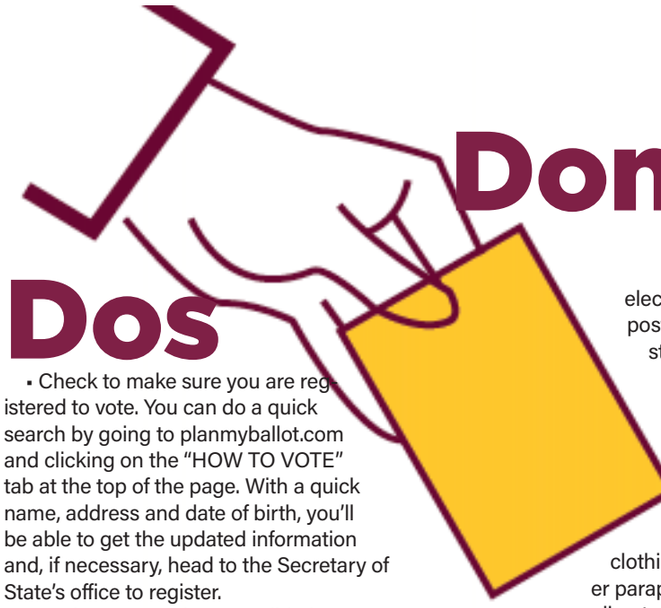
If you are not from Michigan but still wish to vote, you can update your address by using your school address, but this will change the address on your license as well.

If you wish to vote in your home state's election, you may still have time to request an absentee ballot. Deadlines for absentee ballots vary by state; you can search your state's ballot deadlines to see if absentee voting is an option for you.

If you live in a different town in Michigan and wish to vote via absentee ballot, you have until Nov. 4 to request the absentee ballot and need to send it in soon enough that it will be received on or before Nov. 8. More information on absentee ballots in Michigan can be found on the state department website.

At the Sept. 14 Academic Senate meeting, faculty were asked, but not required, to consider Election Day when planning classes and to be lenient with attendance. If you are a student and plan on being absent from a class to vote, contact your instructor and tell them before Election Day.

Illustration created by Caroline Sharbaugh



Dos

- Check to make sure you are registered to vote. You can do a quick search by going to planmyballot.com and clicking on the "HOW TO VOTE" tab at the top of the page. With a quick name, address and date of birth, you'll be able to get the updated information and, if necessary, head to the Secretary of State's office to register.
- Make sure you have a valid photo ID with you. If you don't have it, you can still sign an affidavit attesting to your identity, but you will need to present your picture ID within six days after the election to make your ballot count.
- Know where to vote. Unless you requested an absentee ballot (which will need a stamp), you will need to go to your home precinct to vote in person.
- Let your professors know if you will need to miss class in order to vote. The Central Michigan University Academic Senate asked professors to plan lectures, assignments, quizzes and exams around Nov. 8; and many professors may give you an excused absence if they know you're doing your civic duty.
- Know your rights. If you need accommodations for a language or a disability, ask the clerk or election workers how they can help.

—Sources: planmyballot.com, vote411.com

Don'ts

- Hand out election-related materials, post signs or distribute stickers (other than those nifty "I Voted" stickers the election officials pass out) within 100 feet of the entrance to a voting place.
- Wear any sort of clothing, accessories or other paraphernalia that makes a direct or indirect reference to an election, candidate or ballot question.
- Harass, intimidate or otherwise try to persuade a fellow voter to cast their ballot one way or the other.
- Solicit votes at the polling place or within 100 feet of a building in which voting is taking place. Also, it's illegal to ask for donations, gifts, contributions or signatures on a petition within 100 feet of a polling place, or to sell tickets in that same space.
- Prevent someone else from casting their ballot.
- Take a picture inside the polling place. It's true: Election selfies are out this year.

—Source: legislature.mi.gov

Illustration created by Madelyn Kerbyson

Michigan's three ballot proposals explained

By Patrick Bouman and Zipporah Abarca
News Editors

There are 12 days until the Nov. 8 election, and there are many topics for voters to learn about before casting a ballot.

Michigan voters will decide the outcome of three ballot proposals. Here is what each proposal would change, along with some of the stances from community members.

Stock Photo | Central Michigan Life

Mount Pleasant City Hall in downtown Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Proposal 22-1

If passed, Proposal 1 would change two things for state legislators and officials.

The first part would require legislators, the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and attorney general to disclose financial information. According to the ballot language, this would include "assets, liabilities, income sources, future employment agreements, gifts, travel reimbursements and positions held in organizations except religious, social and political organizations."

This first change would take affect after 2023, if passed. According to a Jan. 8, 2018, article by the Center for Public Integrity, Michigan and Idaho are the only two states that do not have a financial ethics law like this.

The second part of the ballot measure would change the way term limits apply to state legislators. Currently, state senators cannot serve more than two, four-year terms (eight years), according to Michigan.gov, and state representatives cannot serve more than three, two-year terms (six years). That means if a legislator is elected and reelected multiple times in both chambers, they could serve up to 14 years between the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate.

A "Yes" vote on Proposal 1 would limit officials to a total of 12 years as a state legislator, but allow them to use that time in any combination of the Senate or House. In other words, the proposal would not increase the length of terms, but would change the number of terms a legislator can hold in one body, as long as it's not over 12 years total.

> *Voting should be easy and convenient for every eligible voter.*
>
> **Anthony Feig**
> Democratic candidate for State House District 92

Anthony Feig, a geography and environmental studies faculty member at Central Michigan University, is running as a Democrat to represent the state's 92nd District in the Michigan House of Representatives. He said he supports Proposal 1.

"You have to follow the money," Feig said. "We want to make sure that elected officials are working for the people and not for themselves or their wallets."

Feig said the proposal would allow officials to build more "institutional memory" in their positions, but the 12 year limit should be subject to change if necessary.

Jerry Neyer, a member of the Isabelle County Farm Bureau, is running against Feig as a Republican. He said Proposal 1 would be a step in the right direction.

"It still puts term limits in the end," Neyer said, "and then it also allows the legislature to develop those long-term relationships that help move bills through in a more efficient manner than we are dealing with now."

Proposal 22-2

Proposal 2 would add provisions for voters during elections. According to Michigan.gov, the proposal would mean multiple changes, including:

> *It sounds good, but it will not require a voter ID. It won't be in the law. It won't be in the constitution.*
>
> **Jerry Neyer**
> Republican candidate for State House District 92

- Voters can choose to verify their identity using either a photo ID or a signed statement.
- Allowing nine days of early in-person voting.

To see the full ballot language for Proposal 2, visit cm-life.com.

Feig said he supports Proposal 2 because "voting should be easy and convenient for every eligible voter."

Neyer said he does not support the proposal.

"It sounds good, but it will not require a voter ID," he said. "It won't be in the law. It won't be in the constitution. It lengthens out the days for voting. ... When it's difficult to get full workers even for one day, to be able to manage something like that would be very difficult and very costly to townships and districts like that."

Proposal 22-3

Proposal 3 would create a new right to "reproductive freedom" in Michigan's constitution, including the right to make decisions about pregnancy and abortion.

If passed, it would also allow the state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, which means once a fetus is capable of living, the state could determine whether an abortion is plausible. However, it would not prohibit abortion if the patient's life, physical health or mental health is at risk, according to Bridge Michigan.

A "yes" vote for Proposal 3 would create a new right to "reproductive freedom" in the Michigan constitution, invalidating the 1931 abortion ban and potentially other existing regulations.

A "no" vote for Proposal 3 would leave abortion access up to elected officials in Lansing or judges, who have so far suspended the enforcement of the state's 91-year-old ban under rulings that abortion opponents are appealing to higher courts.

Lauren Hull, president of the CMU College Democrats, said she supports Proposal 3.

"I am very, deeply uncomfortable with this idea of the government being able to control the bodies — and make intimate personal decisions — for half of its population," Hull said.

Hull said she worries that, if Proposal 3 does not pass, civil liberties like privacy, bodily autonomy and emergency healthcare could be at risk for women.

Neyer is against Proposal 3.

"It sounds good on the surface, but I'm pro-life, so I'm against this right off the bat," he said. "It doesn't give any parental control to the parents. That actually will take it out of their hands if they're underaged, or somebody under 18 can go get an abortion or can seek other sex health services without the consent of their parents. ... It's too extreme for me."

Voting is power. Use it. | OPINION

Written by
League of Women Voters

In a democracy, each voter has a voice in how government works. Sometimes that voice is expressed directly, e.g., through voting for library or school funding. At other times, that voice is expressed indirectly through elected officials.

In 2022, the citizens of Michigan will elect officials who will represent them on the national, state, and local levels. These elected officials will represent voters when decisions are made on legislation and policies that affect everything from the national economy to signage on local school buildings.

Historically, voters have not been as motivated to cast ballots during midterm elections. However, voting for officials who will lead our state, county and city is just as important as voting for officials who will lead our country. Local officials make decisions that impact our daily lives and our communities.

What will be on your ballot? Voters will cast ballots for: governor; secretary of state; attorney general; representative in Congress; State Board of Education; university boards; judicial candidates; state senator; state representative; county commissioner; city commissioner; school board; and on ballot proposals.

Prepare to Vote

Are you registered

tance. The public library (989) 773-3242 can help you locate the phone number for your township clerk.

Be an Inormed Voter

Information about candidates and ballot initiatives should be obtained from an unbiased source.

The League of Women Voters (LWV), a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, publishes a Nonpartisan Voter Guide. LWV contacts all candidates running for office to elicit responses to biographical questions and questions about issues. The print guide will be available near the end of September. The digital gGuide will be available at VOTE411.org.

Vote

If you choose to vote in person, polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 8.

If you choose to vote absentee, return your ballot as soon as possible. Your ballot must be in the hands of the clerk at the close of the polls on Nov. 8 (postmarks don't count). You can track your ballot online at https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index.

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Show up, participate and most importantly, vote

CMU beat the national voter average in 2020, now make this election count

In the past two elections – presidential and midterm – Central Michigan University student voter participation has spiked. Let's keep up the streak in this upcoming midterm election.

The outcome of the Nov. 8 election will not only determine the future of Michigan but of those that live and thrive in the state. There are dozens of positions up for grabs from local to state government and there are many issues at stake – legislature term length, voter rights and reproductive freedom.

It's up to each and every one of us individually to use our voice by voting.

Two years ago, we saw one of the most divisive elections in American history. We also saw a large increase in collegiate voter turnout with 66% of college students who were registered to vote casting their ballots – an increase of 14% over the 2016 presidential election, according to the Washington Post.

This year, there is less of a back and forth between candidates campaigning to fulfill the open positions, but that doesn't lessen the importance of the people that fill these roles and how they will determine Michigan's future.

Multiple statewide offices are on the ballot including governor, state house and senate and the state supreme court. Between Mount Pleasant and Isabella County, there are eight local government positions on the ballot.

The decisions made by the people in these positions have lasting effects.

Local governments, determined by state government, fund police departments, schools, parks and nearly every aspect of the community. They decide what a community looks like and how it prospers.

EDITORIAL

Ilustration created by Madelyn Kerbyson

Students often think their voice doesn't matter, but statistics from past years suggest otherwise.

In the most recent midterms, the U.S. saw a surge in college student voting from 19% in 2014 to 40% in 2018, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE).

You can see it on CMU's campus, too. Organizations on campus, like Central Civics and Central Votes, have hosted dozens of non-partisan events and activities focused on voter registration, education and civic participation.

"The more people that are engaged the more they care about it," said Norma Bailey, with Central Votes. "So... this is why we call it Central Votes, we're trying to brand our campus as a university that, in fact, votes."

Central Michigan Life was proud to work with these groups and the Griffin Forum to sponsor a voter information session Oct. 25, featuring community and campus leaders representing both the 'yes' and 'no' vote for each of the three ballot proposals.

The work done by students and faculty has paid off. A 2021 study by the Institute for Democracy and Higher Education reported CMU student voter rates beat the national average in the 2020 election by over 2%.

In the 2014 midterms, 16% of CMU students voted. Four years later, that number spiked to almost 35%. Let's make the numbers jump again in this upcoming midterm election.

CMU is taking steps to engage students in voter activity. It's up to you to show up, participate and, most importantly, vote.

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Q&A

Mallory McMorrow

Michigan state senator

Mallory McMorrow is a state senator representing Michigan's 13th District. In an interview with Central Michigan Life, she discussed political polarization, women in politics and the importance of elections.

Brandon Horn ■ *Staff Reporter*

Mallory McMorrow is a Democratic state senator representing the 13th district which includes some of the northern Detroit suburbs. Due to redistricting, she is now running in this year's election to represent the 8th District, which is also in the Detroit area. In April, Michigan state Sen. Lana Theis (R-Brighton) sent out a fundraising email accusing McMorrow and "progressive social media trolls" of wanting to "groom and sexualize kindergartners" and teach that "8-year-olds are responsible for slavery."

McMorrow denied the accusations during a speech on the State Senate floor on April 19. The speech was then posted to Twitter, where it now has over 15 million views. As a result, McMorrow rose to national prominence and has appeared in both television and print media in Michigan and beyond.

We are more than six months removed from the incident with Sen. Theis. How have the responses you've received impacted you as a woman and a mother?

I don't think I ever could have imagined that I would wake up one day to find out that a colleague of mine – and not only a colleague of mine, but another mother – effectively accused me, a mom, of molesting children. The responses to my speech have been overwhelmingly positive. For months, our P.O. box was completely full with letters of people writing me their life story and how much (the speech) meant to them. We had positive responses from older people, younger people, Conservatives, Democrats, people who are religious and people who are not religious. It really tapped into some universal values about who we all are, so it's been really wonderful – and in a strange way – reinvigorating.

Are there any responses that surprised you?

I graduated from the University of Notre Dame, so I went to a Catholic school. Getting a lot of responses from fellow Notre Dame grads – you know, it's a really divisive time right now – to get letters from people who really said to me that they're so proud of what I did, because they said that I embody the values of the university and what it means to be Catholic and Christian. Some people are out there attacking trans kids, or our Black kids, or the LGBTQ community at large. I think that's been really moving to me, just getting those letters. That was a scary thing for me to talk about – my relationship to the church – especially as somebody who moved away from it, as a lot of people do when they get older. That surprised me in a really good way.

In a recent piece on Time Magazine's website, you said you think of your career in terms of "before the speech" and "after the speech." What was life like for you before the speech?

It was hard. I ran for office for the first time in 2018. This was not what I ever thought I would do with my career, but I was somebody who, in the wake of the 2016 election and all of the hate and vitriol that that led to – with Donald Trump openly bragging about sexual assault and targeting immigrants and handicapped people – it started this kind of ugly pattern that we've seen in our politics. I represent a district in Oakland County, Michigan, so every time there were lies about the 2020 election and Mike Lindell (CEO of My Pillow) went on TV somewhere and said that computers in China changed votes in Oakland County, our offices got hate mail and sometimes death threats. It really wore me and my staff down when we were just trying to help people. We helped more than 1,000 people access unemployment – trying to be of service to our community – but the constant vitriol was challenging. To see such an overwhelming response in a good way – and getting calls and emails from people who say that my speech and my actions inspired them to get back involved – that's really incredible.

Do you feel that women in politics have more of a target on their backs compared to men?

I do. When we learned of the plot to kidnap and potentially kill Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the same group – the Wolverine Watchmen – also wanted to carry out burning down our state capitol and public executions on the front steps. They listed some names and they were almost all women. The types of phone calls and emails that we get are graphic. There are rape threats. I'm not easily rattled these days, but there was a Twitter account ... and this person would respond on posts, basically revealing where I lived – talking about my house and parks around it and ... talking about my childcare situation. That was really terrifying. You hope that it's never going to turn into something serious, but in this day and age, you just don't know.

My office staff is all women right now. I feel like there are so few of us in these roles. That is something that I think about a lot – how do we make this space safer for women so that there are more women in these roles?

A couple of years ago, I was very public in reporting and filing an official complaint against a colleague who sexually harassed me, another sitting senator. I did that in defense of a young reporter who was sexually harassed by this senator. He tried to call her a liar and say she was politically motivated. I knew I had a similar experience to back her up. It's only going to change if more of us get into these roles and acknowledge the challenges. The future is female, but it's also challenging.

It's on men to talk to other men when they see something happening. We need men to say, 'Hey man, that's not okay.' If it's only women talking about it, it will get minimized.

What would you say to college students in Michigan about the importance of voting?

It's super important, that's true. There's always this like, 'you have to vote, it's gonna change everything.' Especially when Roe v. Wade fell, you saw younger women expressed frustration and they would get texts from Democrats saying 'Roe just fell, donate 5 dollars,' and it feels super disingenuous. If you don't vote, you're letting somebody else decide for you – that's the reality. What we see in traditional voting patterns is a lot of older people vote and it skews where the policies lie. Change takes time. This election is not going to change everything, but it will ... start to move things in the direction that you want to go.

‘I actually was not going to take my fifth year’

How outside hitter Mallory Hernandez ended up at CMU

By Kaia Zimmerman
Staff Reporter

On the match point of set five against Ball State, senior outside hitter Mallory Hernandez’s name was called and she delivered with the game winning kill that had McGuirk Arena on their feet.

“I knew the ball was coming to me,” Hernandez said. “And I was like, well, we’re going to win if I hit this ball. I think just staying confident in myself and knowing that I can do things that the team needs.”

Hernandez is a new name for many Central Michigan volleyball fans, but she has shot onto the scene in her first year as a Chippewa, leading the team in kills with 251 kills along with 276 points in 22 games.

While she has also proven herself on the defensive end with 46 total blocks, head coach Mike Gawlik feels Hernandez’s experience has made the transition smoother.

“She definitely brings a physicality to our gym that is unique,” Gawlik said. “And not only just to our gym, but the conference. I think she’s as physical a player as we have in our league, and her ability to jump and play high over the net. I think that her experience has put her in a position to kind of help be one of those terminal people that’s gonna take a big swing in a big moment.”

Transferring from the University of Georgia, Hernandez is no stranger to tough competition. As a Bulldog, she had a total of 453 kills with a standout freshman year of 226 kills and 44 digs.

“It was fun just competing with every game,” Hernandez said. “And not knowing who was going to win and just getting to play against people who were really good.”

Following her senior year with the Bulldogs, Hernandez wasn’t sure if the passion she had for volleyball still remained.

“I actually was not going to take my fifth year,” Hernandez said. “And then I decided that I didn’t want to go into the real world. And I wasn’t ready to have a real job. So I was like, I might as well play another year. I still love volleyball.”

Layla Blahnik-Thoune | Visual Editor
Senior outside hitter Mallory Hernandez hits the ball during CMU’s 3-2 win against Ball State Saturday, Sept. 24 in McGuirk Arena.

“Volleyball means so much. I didn’t think it meant that much until I actually didn’t play it for six months (in) my last semester at Georgia, and I was like, this is my entire life. All my friends were from volleyball, all my experiences. All the ups and downs in my life have been from volleyball, so it’s my entire life.”

With Hernandez hailing from Fishers, Indiana, Gawlik was aware of her talent well before she entered the transfer portal.

“She was a player that we always have on your radar because they’re an elite level player,” Gawlik said. “So when their name pops up in the portal, and you make contact, and she’s from Fishers and that, it’s only a couple hours away. You try to capitalize on the fact that maybe an athlete wants to get a little bit closer to home to share their experience with family and friends. We had a need to kind of bring in an additional pin hitter and what she’s able to bring, from an experience standpoint, we felt like it’d be a really good asset to our program.”

In the end, the opportunity to be closer to home and the energy of the team were too much to pass up for Hernandez.

“I came in my visit and I loved the team,” Hernandez said. “And I loved how everything was working. And it was closer to home. So I was like this will be a new experience. And I think I can just end my career on a good note.”

Gawlik believes that Hernandez’s experience gives her a leg up on the competition.

“When you bring in new players, they’re (usually) 18,” Gawlik said. “And you’ve got to kind of teach them to understand the speed of collegiate volleyball... And when you bring in a player that’s done that for four years, you can really just focus a little bit more on the volleyball, you know, because you’re not worried about some of those other things that get younger players hung up sometimes as they’re experiencing those things for the first time.

“When you bring in somebody with that kind of maturity, somebody who knows who they are, as somebody who’s been away from home, who’s played college volleyball and understands that grind, you know, they’re ready to hit the ground running maybe in a different way than a young player.”

While her time at Georgia was invaluable, Hernandez credits her club volleyball team, Munciana Samurai, for providing her with an edge. There, Hernandez took home a national championship in 2017 and also learned the importance of having confidence.

“I think the biggest lesson was that I was surrounded by so many people that are really, really good,” Hernandez said. “So just being okay with not being the star all the time, just learning to play as a team and contributing wherever I can. And I think also being tough because you’re around people who are so good, and just making sure to keep your confidence high because if you don’t have confidence, you can’t do anything.”

Growing up the oldest of six, Hernandez believes this has helped her transition to CMU.

“It’s (was) a lot tougher because I always had the hardest rules on me,” Hernandez said. “I think that helps with sports because it keeps me disciplined. And it makes me pay attention to the details. And also, it helps me with getting along with people, because I feel like as the oldest you have to get along with other siblings to keep order. So I think that’s what helped me a lot.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

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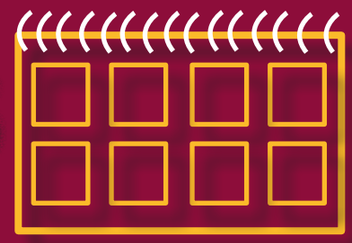

10/27

Thursday

Trick-or-Treat Someone
10 a.m. to noon.
Bovee University Center 108

*Packaging candy bags

Rocky Horror Picture Show
8 to 11:50 p.m.
Broadway Theatre

*Tickets available for purchase at the door

10/28

Friday

Legends of the Dark
8 p.m.
Bovee University Center

*Use link to register a time for a spooky walking tour

10/29

Saturday

Monster Mash: A Halloween Concert
8 to 10 p.m.
Wesley

*Admission: pay what you want and wear a costume

10/30

Sunday

Kick or Treat 5
3 to 5 p.m.
Mount Pleasant Martial Arts

*Trick or treat and open house

10/31

Monday

Halloween Bakesale
1 p.m.
Bovee University Center lawn

Pumpkin Promenade
4 to 6 p.m.
Downtown Mount Pleasant

*Trick or treating hours are 6 to 8 p.m.

11/01

Tuesday

Dara Horn presents: 'People Love Dead Jews: Reports from a Haunted Present'
7 to 8 p.m.
EHS Building, 118 French Auditorium

*Open to public

11/02

Wednesday

Native American Heritage Month: Supaman Live Concert
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Plachta Auditorium

*Open to public

11/03

Thursday

The Emma Norman Todd Distinguished Lecture Series
6 to 7:30 p.m.
Plachta Auditorium

11/04

Friday

The Rocky Horror Picture Show
8 p.m.
Broadway Theatre

*Open to public

11/06

Sunday

Mid-Michigan Paranormal Convention
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Soaring Eagle Casino and Hotel

11/07

Monday

Indigenous Movie Mondays: "Powerlands"
3:30 to 4:45 p.m.
Pearce Hall 127

*Public event

11/09

Wednesday

CMU Football vs. Buffalo
7 p.m.
Football Stadium

*Tickets for purchase

11/10

Thursday

Fired Up Talent Show
7 p.m.
Hunter's Ale House

*Free admission

11/11

Friday

Native American Heritage Month: Crafting, Cocoa and Conversation
1 to 3 p.m.
UC Office for Student Inclusion and Diversity 108
*Public Event

Diva Deers Widows Drag
6:30 p.m.
Broadway Theatre
*$10 tickets for purchase

11/14

Monday

Native American Heritage Month: Crafting, Cocoa and Conversation
1 to 3 p.m.
UC Office for Student Inclusion and Diversity 108

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Central Michigan Life's editorial and business offices are located at 436 Moore Hall, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, telephone (989) 774-3493 or 774-LIFE.

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Michiganders to vote on abortion law

By Gina Hofbauer
Staff Reporter

Michigan residents and Central Michigan University students are weighing in on reproductive freedoms, after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling which upheld the right to get an abortion, on June 24.

On Sept. 7, a Michigan judge shot down a 1931 anti-abortion law from being enforced, leading it to become a topic of the Nov. 8 ballot.

In Michigan's 1931 anti-abortion law, the only exception for an abortion is if the mother's life is endangered by the pregnancy.

Court of Claims Judge Elizabeth Gleicher said in her decision, that the law violates Michigan's constitution.

"A law denying safe, routine medical care not only denies women of their ability to control their bodies and their lives," she said. "It denies them of their dignity, but Michigan's Constitution also forbids this violation of due process."

Gleicher said she believes the law prohibits a woman from determining the future of their life by forcing them into motherhood.

Aurora Rae | Editor-in-Chief

Protesters gather in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., June 24.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer has been vocal in her support of abortion rights. On April 7, she wrote an op-ed in the Detroit Free Press highlighting that seven out of 10 Michiganders support abortion.

According to the Center of Reproductive Rights (CRR), 10 states, including California, New York and Illinois, have expanded abortion access due to previous laws created to protect reproductive rights. This means the right to abortion is protected by the states' constitutions According to the CRR, 11 states protect abortion, including Alaska, Florida and Maine, meaning they have the right to abortion but may have limitations set for access to care.

Abortion is now illegal in 13 states, including Texas, Indiana and South Dakota; 13 states, including Michigan, Arizona and Wisconsin, are considered hostile — meaning they have expressed the desire to ban abortion and currently do not have laws protecting abortion.

The Michigan Supreme Court in Lansing decided to include reproductive freedom on the ballot in the Nov. midterms. A "yes" vote would make abortion a protected right in Michigan's constitution, while a "no" vote would not add any protections.

The national debate on abortion has reached Central Michigan University students as well.

Vice President of the CMU College Republicans Evan Gibeau said abortion should be a choice for everyone.

"I don't think my opinion really matters in the grand scheme of things, and I don't think the government's should either," Gibeau said. "It should be a choice that everybody has, whether you like it or not, because there are too many circumstances in which I think an abortion would be warranted, and they sort of outweigh the instances in which (it) wouldn't."

President of the CMU College Democrats Lauren Hull said it should be an option that every woman has, and the government should have no business in.

"I think before, abortion was something that we could think about theoretically, and we have these moral debates and you are on one side or the other." Hull said. "Now what we're looking at is this extreme 1931 law that is going to be reality, very shortly. And so we're in a position where we just can't afford to sit in the abstract and have these moral debates anymore."

Macomb junior Ethan Alwardt said abortion should be legal in Michigan and women should have the right to choose.

"The government should not have a say in the matter," he said. "I don't think it should even be voted on. It is a human right, but since there is the potential of it being taken away, then (by voting) people can speak (up) and protect women's rights."

Macomb senior Hailey Ryan said abortion is an important topic for those who can give birth. While it may seem like a scary subject she said, it needs to be discussed.

"Women's rights and movements (have gotten) us so far," Ryan said. "From voting, to owning our own land, running our own businesses and being functioning members of society, these rights are slowly being stripped away, starting with abortion.

"These rights are under attack, and we reserve the right to use our voice and our civic duty of voting to speak our minds and fight for our rights."

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Anspach/Pearce	:45	:15	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
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Main St./Gaylord	:48	:18	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
MMC/DOAN CENTER	:55	:25	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Washington/Clayton	:05	:35	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Larzalere	:06	:36	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Wightman	:07	:37	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Park Library	:08	:38	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
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SAC/McGuirk	:13	:43	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Stadium Mall			UPON REQUEST
TJ Maxx			UPON REQUEST
Walmart			UPON REQUEST
Copper Beech	:26	:56	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
The Reserve	:28	:58	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Jamestown	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Yorkshire Commons	:33	:03	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
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TOWERS @7/11	:15	:45	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Westpoint Village	:18	:48	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Deerfield Village	:20	:50	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Lexington Ridge	:25	:55	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Theunissen Stadium Lot#70	:27	:57	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
Communter Lot #75	:29	:59	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
SAC/McGuirk	:30	:00	EVERY 1/2 HOUR
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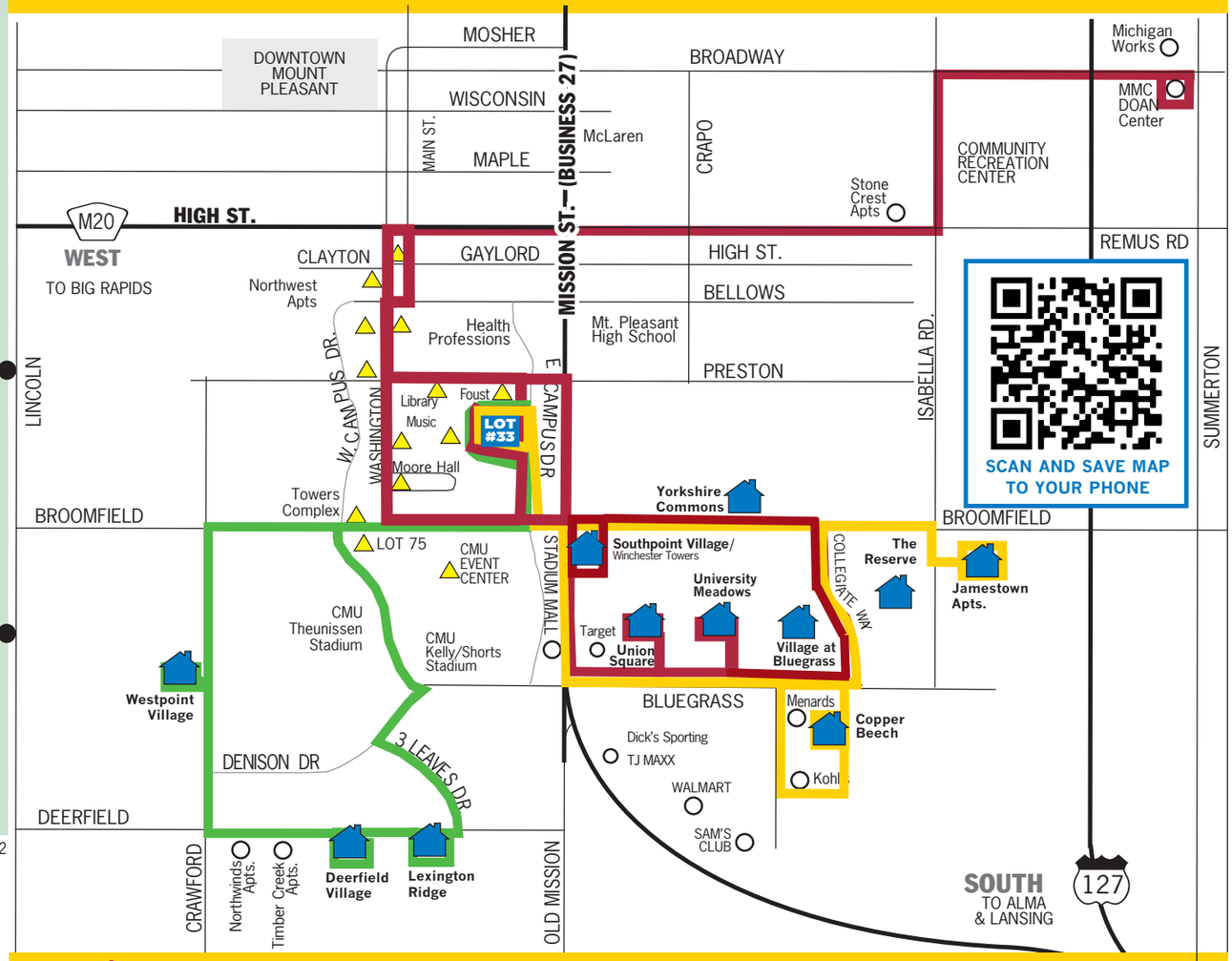

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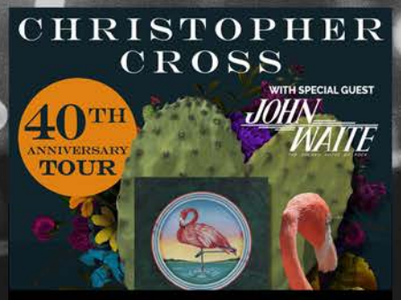

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